

MANSFIELD AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
APPROVED Minutes of February 7, 2012 meeting
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building, Conference Room B, 7:30 p.m.

1. Chairman Al Cyr called the meeting to order at 7:35.

PRESENT: Al Cyr, Charlie Galgowski, Wes Bell, Vicky Wetherell, Meredith Poehlitz, Ed Wazer, Jennifer Kaufman (staff)

2. Minutes of the January 3 meeting were amended and approved.

Old Business

3. *Update on Open Space Action Plan* – The plan has been submitted to the Council as correspondence. A presentation to the Council will be scheduled at a later date.

4. *Ag Lease Report* – Jennifer reported on the Town attorney's review of the proposed leasing policy for Town-owned farmland and proposed lease language. The committee discussed issues presented by the attorney, and they determined that further consideration is necessary. The committee voted to extend a one-year bridge lease to current lessees so that the committee can determine a leasing policy to recommend to the Council before the 2013 growing season.

New Business

5. *CL&P Transmission Line* - The committee reviewed the Town Council's recommendations to minimize the impact on the Town by the proposed CL&P transmission line. The committee voted to support the Council's recommendation for the use of EMF Best Management Practices poles (monopoles) in the Bassetts Bridge area, since they would create the least disturbance to the farmland there. A memo will be sent to the Council with the committee's comments.

6. *Agriculture Input Session* – The committee discussed an agenda for this meeting on February 29.

7. *Presentation to the Council on February 14* –The committee discussed an agenda for its presentation about proposed right-to-farm and farm tax incentive ordinances.

8. *Report on meeting with Ct. DOA Farmland Preservation Director* – Jennifer reported on the various programs available from the state for farmland preservation.

9. *Farmland Preservation Subcommittee* – To address a requirement for grant programs, a subcommittee was formed to update farmland preservation criteria and priorities.

10. *Ag Commissions Conference* - Jennifer requested that a representative attend this meeting on March 24.

11. The meeting adjourned at 9:30. The next meeting is on March 6.

